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Rivero Mestre LLP
U.S.A.

Amanda Fernandez



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1. **Could you share a little bit of your background?**

I am the Managing Partner of Rivero Mestre, a Legalink member firm from Miami, Florida.

My legal journey is intertwined with my family's history. My grandparents left Cuba to escape an oppressive communist regime. Learning about the sacrifices my family made to build a better future instilled in me a profound appreciation for justice and individual rights.

I graduated with honors from Florida International University, receiving a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science with a Minor in History. I then earned my law degree from Villanova University School of Law.

In 2021, I joined Rivero Mestre. I was promoted to partner in 2023 and more recently was named managing partner. I handle complex business matters, international arbitration, and cross-border disputes.

Some of my notable cases include representing Dr. Craig Wright, self-proclaimed inventor of Bitcoin, in a \$600 billion trial regarding Bitcoin ownership, where we secured a verdict in his favor. I also represent several clients in Latin America with high-stake business disputes.

Alongside my legal practice, I am deeply involved in community service. I serve in leadership roles in various bar associations, including president-elect of the Cuban American Bar Association and president of CABA Pro Bono, which provides free legal services to the indigent community

2. **In your opinion, what are some of the key challenges women lawyers face in the legal profession?**

Women in the legal profession often confront various challenges that can hinder their professional advancement and success.

2. Despite significant strides in recent decades, gender bias and discrimination persist, affecting everything from career opportunities to compensation. Additionally, work-life balance remains a significant challenge, with women often juggling demanding work schedules with caregiving responsibilities. Finding the right firm or company that supports you and cultivates your career is how I've been able to overcome these issues.

3. **How do you balance the demands of your legal career with other aspects of your life, and what advice do you have for aspiring women lawyers in achieving this balance?**

Balancing the rigorous demands of a legal career with other aspects of life, particularly parenting three children, requires a strong support network and effective time management skills. My mom has been amazing, generously assisting with childcare, and my husband has also provided support and encouragement to pursue my career goals. Connecting with other women attorneys and friends who face similar challenges has been a source of strength during difficult times. Sharing experiences and supporting one another has created a sense of camaraderie that extends beyond professional hurdles.

For aspiring women lawyers, the best advice I can offer is to start networking early. The people you meet through community involvement will become your advocates, friends, and support system. Finding mentors can propel you in your career.

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4. Can you share an example of a professional achievement or success that you are particularly proud of, and how did your gender play a role, if at all, in the

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Being promoted to managing partner was a significant milestone in my career. For a woman in the legal profession, attaining such a position is particularly noteworthy, given the historical underrepresentation of women in leadership roles within law firms. As a managing partner, my gender has been instrumental in shaping my leadership style and approach. Embracing qualities traditionally associated with the female gender, such as empathy, collaboration, and communication, has enabled me to foster a supportive and inclusive work environment.

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5. Networking and building relationships are essential in the legal profession. Can you share insights into how Legalink has provided you with opportunities to connect with legal professionals globally?

I'm excited to get more involved with Legalink. My colleagues have found so much value in connecting with legal professionals worldwide. Through Legalink's conferences and events, we've formed lasting relationships with lawyers who share our dedication to excellence. I also recently joined Legalink's Women in Law Group, where I have had the opportunity to connect with other attorneys to discuss the unique challenges faced by women in the legal profession.

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6. How do you see Legalink's role in supporting women lawyers in the network?

Legalink can support women lawyers by providing mentorship opportunities and resources for professional development. Additionally, Legalink can facilitate networking events and forums where women lawyers can connect, share experiences, and exchange best practices. By championing diversity and inclusion, Legalink can empower women to take on leadership roles and contribute to the network's success, ultimately advancing their careers.

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